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March 20, 2001 LB 524, 593, 611, 757, 827

Redistricting Task Force Committee tomorrow morning at 7:30, Room 1510. A confirmation report from Judiciary, Nebraska Retirement Systems notice of hearing. Health and Human Services reports LB 524 to General File with amendments; Judiciary reports LB 593, LB 611 to General File with amendment; LB 757 as indefinitely postponed. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1115-1122.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. (Visitors introduced.) On with the discussion with the Beutler AM0903 to the committee amendments, Senator Kristensen, followed by Senators Quandahl, Landis and Cunningham. Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Senator Beutler raised a couple of points that I've been listening and I felt compelled to respond to. One is the concept of the Telecommunications Act of '96, and also the FCC order that just came down. What reading from, I assume, is the FCC order dealing in Missouri where actually what they did was upheld Missouri's ban on that local entry by those subdivisions. And quite frankly, the policy in this state should be just that as well, and I'm glad that it's in the bill. I would do it stronger than what we have in there. And it's primarily to protect those local entities from themselves. It has nothing to do with local control. There are many communities who view this as a revenue stream, as a revenue source. But in practice and in reality, what they're going to do is that they want to go out and use property taxpayers' money, they want to use fee money and use those ratepayer monies to build up, not a whole network but pieces and parts that they can use to attract attract people. And again, as I said earlier, that line, that fiberoptic line, is really useless. It does nothing. What that line does is provide some redundant, in almost all cases because I'm not aware of anyplace where there is not copper or fiber in this state, and I would be interested if there is anybody who could tell me where there's not because I'm sure there...it's everywhere. But what happens here is that they'll want to use those in order to go to an entity or two. They will use them as an incentive to bring someone into town, but they don't know what to do with it once they put the cable in. The fiber optics do nothing, the actual cable line itself.